



News Release from Congressman  
**ROB SIMMONS**

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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## **SIMMONS APPLAUDS PENTAGON'S NEW ELECTRIC BOAT CONTRACT**

### *\$20 Million Will Fund Technology Development For Submarines*

NORWICH (CT) -- Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today applauded a Pentagon decision to award a \$20 million technology-development contract to General Dynamics' Electric Boat (EB). The project, intended to reduce the length and cost of future submarines by developing a "shaftless propulsion" system (where the propeller is connected directly to the motor), will maintain design and engineering jobs at Groton in the short-term. In the long-term, the project is expected to strengthen the argument for a higher submarine build-rate.

"This \$20 million contract award is great news for Groton and the U.S. Submarine Force, because it will help us increase the size of the fleet while preserving design and engineering jobs in Connecticut," Simmons said on Wednesday. "Fast attack submarines are the only ship class coming down in cost," Simmons added, "and they are on their way to getting even less expensive."

Simmons has strongly encouraged the Department of Defense to fully support "Tango Bravo," a program initiated to eliminate certain "technical barriers" in order to reduce cost. Simmons secured \$52 million in the Fiscal Year 2006 defense authorization bill for additional engineering and design projects at Groton, much of which is aimed specifically at reducing the cost of Virginia Class submarines.

Simmons said on Wednesday, however, that "research and development programs will continue to reduce the cost of Virginia Class submarines, but ultimately only a higher build-rate will get the sticker-price down to \$2 billion per copy, the Navy's official goal." The Navy has publicly stated that accelerating Virginia Class production to two per year would reduce the cost of each submarine to \$2.2 billion from \$2.4 billion (in 2005 dollars), saving the Navy about \$400 million per year in volume efficiencies alone.

The Connecticut lawmaker has pushed the Navy to build two submarines per year sooner than 2012, the current timetable. The Navy has delayed building two submarines per year seven times since 2002, the original goal for increasing the build-rate.

In June, Simmons made public Navy information showing the submarine fleet able to meet only 35 percent of the U.S. Combatant Commanders' "high priority" mission requirements in the first half of 2006. The U.S. Combatant Commanders are the generals and admirals responsible for executing all military missions in their respective regional areas of responsibility.

The General Dynamics Electric Boat press release is attached.

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